

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 16, 17, 21, and 22 are currently pending. Claims 10-15, 18-20, 23, and 24 have been withdrawn from consideration; and Claims 1 and 22 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0125208 to Malone et al. (hereinafter, “Malone”), U.S. Patent No. 5,659,617 to Fischer (hereinafter, “Fischer”), and U.S. Patent No. 7,093,131 to Kobayashi; Claims 4-6 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malone, Kobayashi, Fischer, and U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0199103 to Dube (hereinafter, “Dube”); and Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malone, Fischer, Kobayashi, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0039929 to Decime (hereinafter, “Decime”).

Applicants’ Claim 1 is directed to a certification system, comprising in part:

the certificate issuing server ***calculates a location associated with the operating environment of the information processing equipment based on information included in the certification request, and issues the electronic certificate to certify the calculated location associated with the operating environment*** of the information processing equipment in response to the certification request of the operating environment transmitted from the information processing equipment. [Emphasis Added].

Applicants respectfully submit that the above clarified feature that the certificate issuing server ***calculates a location*** associated with the operating environment of the

¹ See, e.g., page 28, lines 6-9, in Applicants’ specification.

information processing equipment ***based on information included in the certification request***, and issues the electronic certificate to ***certify the calculated location*** associated with the operating environment of the information processing equipment, is ***not*** disclosed or suggested in the art of record.

For example, Kobayashi describes that authentication station (200) measures a position of an information authenticating apparatus (100) by specifying a base station communicating with the information authenticating apparatus (100).² Further, Kobayashi describes that the authentication station (200) simply compares a location measured by the information authenticating apparatus (100) with the location measured by the authentication station (200), and certifies the location measured by the information authenticating apparatus (100) based on the result of the comparison.

Therefore, Kobayashi's authentication station (200) certifies the location measured by the information authenticating apparatus (100) based on a comparison of the same with the location measured by the authentication station (200) by specifying the base station.

However, there is ***no*** disclosure in Kobayashi that the authentication station (200) calculates a location associated with the operating environment of the information authenticating apparatus (100) based on information included in Kobayashi's request, and certifies the calculated location associated with the operating environment of the information authenticating apparatus (100). Thus, Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest the certificate issuing server, as clarified in Claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, does not remedy the above discussed deficiencies of Kobayashi.

The above discussion regarding independent Claim 1 also applies to independent Claim 22, which recites analogous features in a claim of a different scope.

² See Kobayashi, column 17, lines 56-59.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of independent Claims 1 and 22 be withdrawn. In addition, for the reasons discussed above regarding independent Claims 1 and 22, it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of dependent Claims 2-9, 16, 17, and 21, which directly or indirectly depend from independent Claim 1, also be withdrawn.

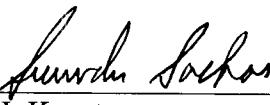
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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